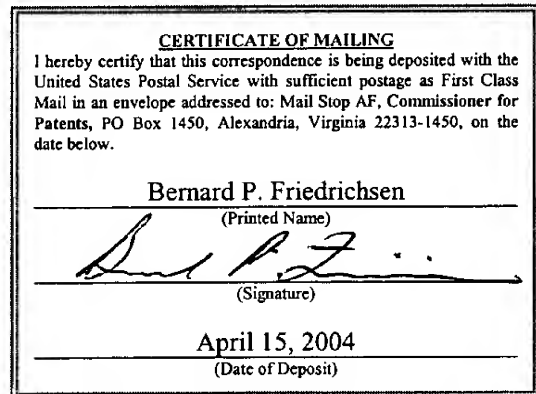




AF/1639
Atty. Dkt. No. 032026-0502
U.S.S.N. 09/784,232

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nicholas L. ABBOTT, et al.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR DETECTION OF
MICROSCOPIC PATHOGENS
Appl. No.: 09/784,232
Filing Date: 02/15/2001
Examiner: My-Chau T. Tran
Art Unit: 1639



AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

This is in reply to a final Office Action mailed on January 23, 2004. The shortened three-month statutory period for response to the Office Action expires on April 23, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants believe that this response is timely filed.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due for this filing. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this document.